

# BORDER ZONE™



**INFOCOM™**

SOFTWARE FOR YOUR  
**COMMODORE 64/128**  
(1541/1571 drive; 5¼" disk)

INTERACTIVE FICTION

BY MARC BLANK

WITH ON-LINE HINTS

# **BORDER ZONE**

**INSTRUCTION  
MANUAL**

If you've never played Infocom's interactive fiction before, you should read this entire instruction manual. If you're an experienced Infocom game player, you may only want to read *Section I: About Border Zone*.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b><i>Section I: About Border Zone</i></b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Preface to the Story</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Speeding Up or Slowing Down the Clock</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Questions</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Hints</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Sample Transcript and Map</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>About the Author</b>	<b>7</b>
<b><i>Section II: About Infocom's Interactive Fiction</i></b>	<b>7</b>
<b>An Overview: What Is Interactive Fiction?</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Starting and Stopping</b>	<b>7</b>
• "Booting up"	
• Saving and restoring	
• Quitting and restarting	
<b>Communicating with Infocom's Interactive Fiction</b>	<b>8</b>
• Basic sentences	
• Complex sentences	
• Talking to characters in the story	
<b>Special Commands</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Tips for Novices</b>	<b>12</b>
Eleven useful pointers about interactive fiction.	
<b>Common Complaints</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>We're Never Satisfied</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>If You Have Technical Problems</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Copyright and Warranty Information</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Quick Reference Guide</b>	<b>15</b>
The most important things to know about interactive fiction.	

## SECTION I: ABOUT *BORDER ZONE*

### Preface to the Story

Washington and Moscow are the capitals of the Superpowers, but the Cold War is fought at the front: in Eastern Bloc countries like Frobnia and adjacent neutral countries like Litzenburg. In these countries, where all strangers are suspect and all actions observed, paranoia and vulnerability are inescapable. In these countries, innocent travelers get caught in the web of international espionage. This is the setting for *Border Zone*.

*Border Zone* consists of three chapters. In each chapter, you play a different character (an American businessman, a Western spy, and an Eastern spy) involved in the assassination attempt of an American ambassador. Each chapter is a story unto itself, with its own unique puzzles and goals. The chapters take place at different times and at different locations; as a player, you will get the most satisfaction if you play the chapters in order.

*Border Zone* has a built-in clock which drives the story forward. Unlike other Infocom stories, the clock in *Border Zone* continues to tick even while you stop to think. So if you find yourself in a dangerous situation, you can't just sit back and relax. Whether you type in a command or not, characters will move around, events will happen, and the story will proceed.

### Speeding Up or Slowing Down the Clock

The clock in *Border Zone* always runs; it cannot be turned off. However, the clock can move at two different speeds: SLOW and FAST. Chapter 1 starts with a SLOW clock; Chapters 2 and 3 start with a FAST clock. You can change the clock speed by typing SLOW or FAST.

Experienced Infocom players ought to try Chapter 1 with a FAST clock, since it's a greater challenge. Slow typists and players with weak hearts may find Chapters 2 and 3 more enjoyable with a SLOW clock.

### Questions

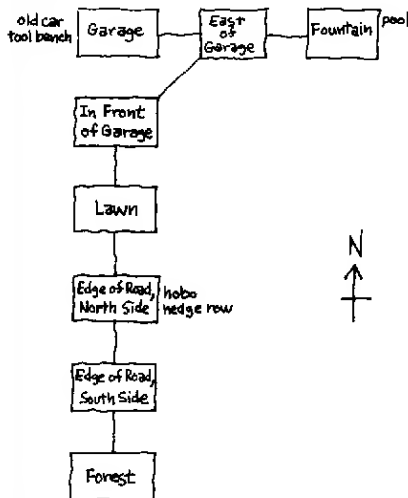
Every now and then, someone in *Border Zone* will want you to answer a specific question. When this happens, you will see two prompts (>>) instead of the usual one (>) on the command line. You must answer the question to proceed; simply type YES or NO and press the RETURN (or ENTER) key.

### Hints

A feature of *Border Zone* is the inclusion of hints. If you ever get stuck, you can type HINT and press the RETURN (or ENTER) key. Then follow the instructions on your screen.

## Sample Transcript and Map

This transcript is not from *Border Zone*, but it does show many of the usual things you can do in the story. It shows a few simple puzzles and their solutions, and it will give you a good idea of how Infocom's interactive fiction works. The player's commands appear in capital letters after each prompt (>). The map shows the layout of the rooms in the sample transcript as you might have drawn it.



You've just stolen the secret Prosser Papers from the Prosser Mansion. Now you've got to make your getaway: you'll need to find a change of clothes (you're dressed all in black, which makes you look VERY suspicious) and a car.

### Forest

You are surrounded on all sides by forest, except to the north, where a road that sounds well-traveled lies up a small slope.

### >NORTH

Edge of Road, South Side

You crawl on your stomach along the edge of a slope that lines the south side of the road. Cars pass by sporadically.

### >N

You start to cross the road, but a truck nearly hits you so you turn back.

### >WATCH THE CARS

[If you were playing *Border Zone*, at this point the status line would graphically depict the movements of the cars as well as your own position. Since this manual does not come with a status line, the position of the cars relative to your position will be included in the text.] There is a car heading towards you about 100 yards to the west. There is a car heading away from you about 500 yards to the east.

[At this point you could try to cross the street again or you could wait (either by doing nothing or typing WAIT). After 30 seconds the new positions of the autos would be shown on the status line.]

There is a car heading away from you about 300 yards to the east.

### >GO NORTH

Edge of Road, North Side

You sprint across the road and dive into a gully on the opposite side, landing on a prostrate hobo who yells "Ouch!" Directly to the south, across the road, lies a forest. The gully leads off into the horizon to your east and west. North of you is an overgrown hedgerow that looks as if it was once part of an ornate landscape. You are no longer watching the cars. The hobo yells, "You hurt me!"

### >SAY "FORGIVE ME"

The hobo responds, "Okay, you're forgiven."

### >L AT THE HEDGEROW

The hedgerow is a long dense yew that encircles an estate. It looks as if it could use some trimming.

### >BEND THE HEDGE

By reaching both arms in the hedgerow, and separating the branches, you make a space wide enough to crawl through.

>N

Lawn

You crawl through the hedges. Unfortunately, your black stocking cap gets caught in the branches, and when the hedge returns to its original position, your cap is flung onto the road. You dare not try to retrieve it. This is too bad since your bangs come down to your nose and your vision is severely impaired. The grass on the lawn is knee-high, and it would be hard to see any obstacles lying in it. To your north is a garage, and to the west of the garage is a white, boarded-up house. East of the garage is an old, shut-off fountain in the center of a pool.

>INVENTORY

You have a black canvas jumpsuit (being worn), a pair of black shoes with crepe soles (being worn), and the secret Prosser Papers.

>N

You begin to dash up to the garage, but the combination of uncut grass and hair makes you trip on an unseen sprinkler, and you fall on your face.

>RIP CLOTHES

You rip a piece of your clothes and now hold a scrap in your hand.

>TIE THE SCRAP AROUND MY HEAD

You make a headband from the torn piece of clothing and tuck your bangs under it. Now you can see much better.

>L AT THE HOUSE

The house is white and boarded up. It doesn't look like it's been lived in for years.

>N

In Front of Garage

You dash up the lawn, narrowly avoiding an old tricycle. There is a large, pull-up door here with windows shaped like diamonds.

>L IN WINDOW

You can't see much because the window is dirty on the inside. However, you do catch the glint of moonlight on metal.

>OPEN THE DOOR

Although the garage door does not seem locked, it is stuck, probably due to neglect.

>NE

East of Garage

You slide like a shadow along the east wall of the garage. There is a door here. You can see a fountain to your east.

>OFEN THE DOOR

[I don't know the word "ofen."]

>OOPS OPEN

The door creaks like an old brass bed as you open it.

>ENTER THE GARAGE

Garage

As you enter the garage, a couple of bats flutter out through the open door, giving you a start. Dim light shines in through the dirty windows. There is an old car here. It looks like a sedan. Next to the sedan is a toolbench.

>L AT THE TOOLBENCH

On the toolbench you see a bottle of oil, a pair of pruning snippers, and a trashcan.

>GET ALL

bottle of oil: Taken.

pair of pruning snippers: Taken.

trashcan: Taken.

>L AT THE TRASHCAN

The trash can is an old dented aluminium job with a lid that is tied onto the handles with twine.

>CUT THE TWINE

What do you want to cut the twine with?

>SNIPPERS

The twine snaps with a twang.

>REMOVE THE LID

You remove the lid, and a musty smell wafts up from the bottom of the can.

>L IN THE CAN

Inside the can you see a green and purple plaid polyester sports jacket with matching skirt and a peach shirt, along with some old magazines.

>GET ALL FROM CAN

sports jacket: Taken.

skirt: Taken.

peach shirt: Taken.

old magazines: Taken.

>WEAR SHIRT. WEAR SKIRT. WEAR JACKET

You remove your black turtleneck and overalls, put them on the floor, and put on the peach shirt. You look less like a burglar already.

You are now wearing the green and purple plaid polyester skirt. You look even less like a burglar.

You are now wearing the green and purple plaid polyester sports jacket.

Unfortunately, a patrol car has noticed the open side door and is turning up the driveway to investigate. You only have moments before you're caught!

At least now you look more like a respectable, if tasteless, business woman.

>OIL DOOR

[Which door do you mean, the garage door, the side door, or the car door?]

>GARAGE DOOR

You grease the garage door, which immediately seems looser.

The patrol car is starting to drive down the long driveway.

>DROP CAN AND BOTTLE

trashcan: dropped.

bottle of oil: dropped.

>REPLACE THE LID

You replace the lid on the can.

>EXIT GARAGE

Garage, East Side

You crouch behind the garage door, but you're not particularly well hidden.

>E

Fountain

You skirt across the lawn, just missing an old lawnmower, and stoop behind the low, white wall of a pool. There is a large white fountain here. The water in the pool is dirty and covered with algae.

A patrol guard has just gotten out of the patrol car and is now entering the garage.

>Z

The patrol guard leaves the garage and closes the side door. He is now heading in your direction. You only have moments before you're caught.

>E

If you want to enter the pool, just say so.

>ENTER THE POOL

You distastefully slide under the surface of the pool, hoping the guard won't be too curious.

The patrol guard continues to poke around the grounds, stopping to light a cigar.

>WAIT 120 SECONDS

[If you were playing *Border Zone*, at this point two minutes would elapse.]

The patrol guard, satisfied that it was only an animal, leaves.

>W.OPEN THE DOOR. ENTER THE GARAGE

You slowly crawl out of the pool and, after what seems like millennia, stand on your feet. You imagine how disgusting you look in your dripping, muddy green and purple plaid polyester suit as you wipe the pond scum from your headband.

You jog back over to the garage.

Garage, East Side

The door gives a heartrending squeal as you open it.

You furtively enter the garage.

Garage

You keep your head down so it won't be seen through the windows, and you pray the guard doesn't return.

It is pretty dark in here.

>CLOSE THE SIDE DOOR. OPEN  
GARAGE DOOR

So as to not make the same mistake  
twice, you shut the door before you  
continue. The door screams as it is closed.  
It is now pitch black.

With a not-so-mighty tug you wrench the  
garage door free. Enough moonlight  
shines in for you to see. Now all you have  
to do is get the car going.

>OPEN CAR DOOR

The car door is now open.

>GET IN THE CAR

You slide behind the wheel, hot-wire the  
ignition, and drive to freedom, albeit  
looking like a bag lady.

## About the Author

**Marc Blank**, a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, is one of the original founders of Infocom. He co-authored the original mainframe version of *Zork* in 1977 at MIT, and went on to become one of the pioneers in the field of interactive fiction. At Infocom, he co-authored *The Zork Trilogy* and *Enchanter*, and was sole author of *Deadline*, the first interactive mystery. *Border Zone* is Infocom's first tale of intrigue, and is Marc's first game since leaving Infocom for warmer climes.

Marc now lives with his wife, Cezanne, and child, Puer, in Agua Dulce, California. His mother still wishes that he would practice medicine, preferably on the East Coast.

## SECTION II: ABOUT INFOCOM'S INTERACTIVE FICTION

### An Overview

Interactive fiction is a story in which *you* are the main character. Each interactive story, such as *Border Zone*, presents you with a series of locations, items, characters, and events. You can affect the direction of the story by moving from place to place, using the objects you find, and interacting with the other characters.

An important element of interactive fiction is puzzle-solving. You should think of a locked door or an armed guard not as a permanent obstacle, but merely as a puzzle to be tackled. (Find the key that unlocks the door, or figure out how to disarm or sneak around the guard.)

Unlike other Infocom stories, time passes in *Border Zone* whether you type something or not. Like a real spy, you probably won't be able to plan your moves as slowly and carefully as you want, since timing is critical and you are usually being watched or chased.

### Starting and Stopping

*Starting the story:* To load *Border Zone*, follow the instructions on the Reference Card in your package.

When the story begins, you will be asked whether you want to begin Chapter 1, Chapter 2, or Chapter 3, or whether you want to restore to a previously saved position (see below). For maximum enjoyment, you should play the chapters in order; so just type 1, and Chapter 1 will begin.

You will get an introduction to the chapter and a description of your location. Then the prompt (>) will appear, indicating that *Border Zone* is ready for your first input. Here are a few inputs for you to try at the first several prompts in Chapter 1. After typing each input, don't forget to press the RETURN (or ENTER) key.

>INVENTORY  
>LOOK AT THE DOCUMENT  
>OPEN THE BRIEFCASE  
>LOOK AT THE CAMERA BAG



*Saving and restoring:* It may take you many days to complete *Border Zone*. Using the SAVE feature, you can continue the story at a later time without having to start over from the beginning, just as you can place a bookmark in a book you are reading. SAVE puts a “snapshot” of your place in the story onto another disk. You should also save your place before (or after) trying something dangerous or tricky. That way, even if you get lost or “killed” in the story, you can return to your saved position.

To save your place in the story, type SAVE at the prompt (>), and then press the RETURN (or ENTER) key. Then follow the instructions for saving and restoring on your Reference Card. Some computers require a blank disk, initialized and formatted, for saves. Using a disk with data on it (not counting other *Border Zone* saves) may result in the loss of that data, depending on your computer. You can save your position as often as you like by using additional blank disks.

You can restore a saved position any time you want. To do so, type RESTORE at the prompt (>), and press the RETURN (or ENTER) key. Then follow the instructions on your Reference Card. You can then continue the story from the point where you used the SAVE command.

*Quitting and restarting:* If you want to start over from the beginning, type RESTART and press the RETURN (or ENTER) key. (This is usually faster than re-booting.) Just to make sure, *Border Zone* will ask if you really want to start over. If you do, type Y or YES and press the RETURN (or ENTER) key.

If you want to stop entirely, type QUIT and press the RETURN (or ENTER) key. Once again, *Border Zone* will ask if this is really what you want to do.

Remember when you RESTART or QUIT: if you want to be able to return to your current position, you must first use the SAVE command.

## Communicating with Infocom's Interactive Fiction

In *Border Zone*, you type your commands in plain English each time you see the prompt (>). *Border Zone* usually acts as if your commands begin with “I want to...,” although you shouldn't actually type those words. You can use words like THE if you want, and you can use capital letters if you want; *Border Zone* doesn't care either way.

When you have finished typing a command, press the RETURN (or ENTER) key. *Border Zone* will then respond, telling you whether your request is possible at this point in the story, and what happened as a result.

*Border Zone* recognizes your words by their first *nine* letters, and all subsequent letters are ignored. Therefore, COUNTERFEIt, COUNTERFEIter, and COUNTERFEited would all be treated as the same word by *Border Zone*.

To move around, just type the direction you want to go. Directions can be abbreviated: NORTH to N, SOUTH to S, EAST to E, WEST to W, NORTHEAST to NE, NORTHWEST to NW, SOUTHEAST to SE, SOUTHWEST to SW, UP to U, and DOWN to D. Remember that IN and OUT will also work in certain places.

*Border Zone* understands many different kinds of sentences. Here are several examples. (Note some of these objects do not actually appear in *Border Zone*.)

- >WALK NORTH
- >DOWN
- >NE
- >TAKE THE BLUE JACKET
- >GET ON THE BOX
- >LOOK THROUGH TELESCOPE
- >OPEN WINDOW
- >WATCH THE GUARD DOGS
- >BEND THE WIRE
- >PRESS THE GREEN BUTTON
- >TEAR THE CLOTHES
- >EXAMINE THE ROLL OF FILM
- >PUT ON GLOVES
- >KNOCK ON THE DOOR
- >TURN ON THE FAUCET
- >TAKE A PICTURE OF THE MONUMENT
- >CUT ROPE WITH SCISSORS
- >PHOTOGRAPH THE AUTOMOBILE
- >THROW THE GOBLET OUT THE WINDOW
- >PUT THE BARREL UNDER THE LEDGE

You can use multiple objects with certain verbs if you separate them by the word AND or by a comma. Some examples:

- >TAKE BOOK AND KNIFE
- >DROP THE TOWEL AND THE FLOWER
- >PUT THE PAPER AND THE CAMERA IN THE BRIEFCASE

You can include several sentences on one input line if you separate them by the word THEN or by a period. (Note that each sentence will still count as a turn.) You don't need a period at the end of the input line. For example, you could type all of the following at once, before pressing the RETURN (or ENTER) key:

- >TAKE THE AXE. GO NORTH THEN CHOP THE BRANCH WITH THE AXE

If *Border Zone* doesn't understand one of the sentences on your input line, or if something unusual happens, it will ignore the rest of your input line (see "Common Complaints" on page 13).

The words IT and ALL can be very useful. For example:

- >TAKE THE BRIEFCASE. CLOSE IT. PUT IT ON THE LUGGAGE RACK
- >CLOSE THE HEAVY METAL DOOR. LOCK IT
- >TAKE THE TRENCH COAT. PUT IT ON
- >TAKE ALL
- >TAKE ALL EXCEPT THE WET EGG AND THE KEY
- >TAKE ALL FROM CABINET
- >DROP ALL BUT THE PENCIL

The word ALL refers to every visible object except those inside something else. If there were an apple on the ground and an orange inside a cabinet, TAKE ALL would take the apple but not the orange.

You can use quotes to say something out loud. For example:

- >SAY "HELLO"
- >SAY "EXCUSE ME"
- >SAY "PREP TIPNA"

*Border Zone* tries to guess what you really mean when you don't give enough information. For example, if you say that you want to do something, but not what you want to do it to or with, *Border Zone* will sometimes decide that there is only one possible object you could mean. When it does so, it will tell you. For example:

- >UNLOCK THE DOOR  
(with the key)  
The door is now unlocked.

If your command is ambiguous, *Border Zone* will ask what you really mean. You can answer most of these questions briefly by supplying the missing information, rather than typing the entire input again. You can do this only at the very next prompt. For example:

- >CUT THE BARBED WIRE  
What do you want to cut the barbed wire with?

### >THE WIRE CUTTERS

As you cut the barbed wire, you hear footsteps in the snow behind you.

or

### >TAKE THE BUTTERFLY

Which butterfly do you mean, the delicate magenta butterfly or the fat yellow butterfly?

### >DELICATE

The delicate magenta butterfly flutters away as you reach for it.

*Border Zone* recognizes over 800 words, nearly all that you are likely to use in your commands. However, *Border Zone* uses many words in its descriptions that it will not recognize in your commands. For example, you might read, "The full moon is bright and clear, and the fir trees cast eerie shadows." If *Border Zone* doesn't recognize the words MOON or SHADOWS in your input, you can assume they are not important to your completion of the story, except to provide you with a more vivid description of where you are or what is going on.

## Special Commands

There are a number of commands which have special meanings. You can use them over and over as needed. Some count as a turn, others do not. Type the command after the prompt (>) and press the RETURN (or ENTER) key.

**AGAIN**—*Border Zone* will respond as if you had repeated your previous command. For instance, typing PRESS THE YELLOW BUTTON then typing AGAIN would be like pressing the yellow button twice in a row. (Among the cases where AGAIN will not work is if you were just talking to another character.) You can abbreviate AGAIN to G.

**FAST**—Chapter 1 starts with a SLOW clock. By typing FAST, you can make the clock in Chapter 1 go faster. Experienced Infocom players are encouraged to play Chapter 1 with a FAST clock, since it's a greater challenge. See also SLOW below.

**HINT**—If you have difficulty while playing the story, and you can't figure out what to do next, just type HINT. You will see a list of questions you can ask. Just follow the directions at the top of your screen to see the hint of your choice.

**INVENTORY**—*Border Zone* will list what you are carrying. You can abbreviate INVENTORY to I.

**LOOK**—This tells *Border Zone* to describe your location in full detail. You can also use a variety of prepositions with LOOK: you can LOOK INSIDE, LOOK THROUGH, LOOK UNDER, etc. You can abbreviate LOOK to L.

**OOPS**—If you accidentally mistype a word, such that *Border Zone* doesn't understand the word, you can correct yourself on the next line by typing OOPS and the correct word. Suppose, for example, you typed PUT THE MAGNET ON THE SEARCHLIGHT and were told "[I don't know the word 'searchlight.']" You could type OOPS SEARCHLIGHT rather than retyping the entire sentence.

**QUIT**—This lets you stop. If you want to save your position before quitting, follow the instructions in the “Starting and Stopping” section on page 7. You can abbreviate QUIT to Q.

**RESTART**—This stops the story and starts it over from the beginning.

**RESTORE**—This restores a position made using the SAVE command. See “Starting and Stopping” on page 7 for more details.

**SAVE**—This puts a “snapshot” of your current position on your storage disk. You can return to a saved position in the future using the RESTORE command. See “Starting and Stopping” on page 7 for more details.

**SCRIPT**—This command tells your printer to begin making a transcript of the story as you venture onwards. A transcript may aid your memory but is not necessary. It will work only on certain computers; read your Reference Card for details.

**SLOW**—Chapters 2 and 3 start with a FAST clock. By typing SLOW, you can make the clock in Chapters 2 and 3 go slower. Slow typists may find the SLOW clock more to their speed. See also FAST above.

**SUPERBRIEF**—See VERBOSE below.

**UNSCRIPT**—This commands your printer to stop making a transcript.

**VERBOSE**—This command tells *Border Zone* to give you the full description of a location every time you enter it. This is how *Border Zone* will normally act, unless you tell it otherwise using the SUPERBRIEF command. The SUPERBRIEF command tells *Border Zone* to display only the name of a place you have entered, even if you have never been there before. In this mode, *Border Zone* will not even mention which objects are present. Of course, you can always get a description of your location and the items there by typing LOOK. In SUPERBRIEF mode, the blank line between turns will be eliminated. This mode is meant for players who are already very familiar with the geography.

**VERSION**—*Border Zone* responds by showing you the release number and the serial number of your copy of the story. Please include this information if you ever report a “bug” in the story.

**WAIT**—This will cause time in the story to pass. If you want to wait for a specific amount of time, you can WAIT FOR 30 SECONDS or WAIT FOR 120 SECONDS or any other whole number of seconds. While you wait, other events might happen: characters who are chasing you, for instance, might catch up to you. You can abbreviate WAIT to Z.

## Tips for Novices

1. You may want to draw a map showing each location and the directions connecting it to adjoining locations. When you find yourself in a new location, make a note of any interesting objects there. (See the small sample map that goes along with the sample transcript on page 4.) There are 10 possible directions (NORTH, SOUTH, EAST, WEST, NORTHEAST, NORTHWEST, SOUTHEAST, SOUTHWEST, UP, and DOWN) plus IN and OUT. Drawing a map isn't essential in *Border Zone*, but you might find it useful.

2. EXAMINE all objects you come across in the story.

3. If you find an object that you think you can use, TAKE IT. Some objects will help you solve some of the puzzles.

4. Save your place often. That way, if you mess up or get "killed," you won't have to start over from the beginning. See page 8 for instructions.

5. Read the story carefully! There are often clues in the descriptions of locations and objects.

6. Try everything you can think of - even strange or dangerous actions may provide clues, and might prove to be fun! You can always save your position first if you want. Here's a silly example:

>GIVE THE RUBBER DUCK TO THE  
GUARD DOG

The guard dog isn't interested in a rubber bone, let alone a rubber duck. He continues to growl and stare at your throat.

Here you have a clue that maybe giving something else to the guard dog (like a steak) would be better.

7. Unlike other "adventure games" you may have played, there are many possible routes to the end of *Border Zone*. If you get stuck on one puzzle, move on to another. Some puzzles have more than one solution; other puzzles don't need to be solved at all. Sometimes you will have to solve one puzzle in order to obtain the item(s) or information you need to solve another puzzle.

8. You may find it helpful to go through *Border Zone* with another person. Different people may find different puzzles easy and can often complement each other.

9. If you really have difficulty, you can type HINT. The screen will then show you a list of questions to which you can get answers. (Simply follow the directions at the top of your screen to see the hint of your choice.) You don't *need* to use the hints to enjoy the story, but it will make solving the puzzles easier.

10. Read the sample transcript on page 4 to get a feel for how Infocom's interactive fiction works.

11. You can word a command in many different ways. For example, if you wanted to take a blue jacket, you could type in any of the following:

>GET JACKET  
>TAKE THE JACKET  
>PICK UP THE BLUE JACKET

If you type in a command that *Border Zone* doesn't understand, try rephrasing the command or using synonyms. If *Border Zone* still doesn't understand your command, you are almost certainly trying something that is not important in continuing your adventure.

## Common Complaints

*Border Zone* will complain if you type a command that confuses it completely. *Border Zone* will then ignore the rest of the input line. (Unusual events, such as being attacked, may also cause *Border Zone* to ignore the rest of your command, since the event may have changed your situation drastically.) Some of *Border Zone*'s complaints:

**I don't know the word "\_\_\_\_\_".** The word you typed is not in the story's vocabulary. Sometimes using a synonym or rephrasing will help. If not, *Border Zone* probably doesn't know the idea you were trying to get across.

**You used the word "\_\_\_\_\_" in a way that I don't understand.** *Border Zone* knows the word you typed, but couldn't use it in that sense. Usually this is because *Border Zone* knows the word as a different part of speech. For example, if you typed PRESS THE LOWER BUTTON, you are using LOWER as an adjective, but *Border Zone* might know LOWER only as a verb, as in LOWER THE ROPE.

**There seems to be a noun missing in that sentence.** This usually means your sentence was incomplete, such as EAT THE BLUE or PUT THE BOOK IN THE.

**There were too many nouns in that sentence.** An example is PUT THE SOUP IN THE BOWL WITH THE LADLE, which has three noun "phrases," one more than *Border Zone* can digest in a single action.

**I beg your pardon?** You pressed the RETURN (or ENTER) key without typing anything.

**You can't see any \_\_\_\_\_ here.** The object you referred to was not accessible to you. It may be somewhere else, inside a closed container, and so on.

**You can't use more than one object at a time with "\_\_\_\_\_".** You can use multiple objects (that is, nouns or noun phrases separated by AND or a comma) or the word ALL only with certain verbs. Among the more useful of these verbs are TAKE, DROP, and PUT. An example of a verb that will not work with multiple objects is EXAMINE; you couldn't say EXAMINE ALL or EXAMINE THE MATCH AND THE CIGARETTE.

**That sentence isn't one I recognize.** The sentence you typed may have been gibberish, such as TAKE ROPE WITH READ. Or you may have typed a reasonable sentence but used a syntax that *Border Zone* does not recognize, such as WAVE OVER THE MOUNTAIN. Try rephrasing the sentence.

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## Quick Reference Guide

1. To start the story ("boot up"), see the separate Reference Card in your *Border Zone* package.

2. When you see the prompt (>) on your screen, *Border Zone* is ready for your input. There are four kinds of sentences or commands that *Border Zone* understands:

A. Direction commands: To move from place to place, just type the direction you want to go: NORTH, SOUTH, EAST, WEST, NORTHEAST, NORTHWEST, SOUTHEAST, SOUTHWEST, UP, DOWN, IN, or OUT.

B. Actions: Just type whatever you want to do. Some examples: READ THE BOOK or OPEN THE DOOR or LOOK THROUGH THE TELESCOPE or THROW THE KEY OUT THE WINDOW. Once you're familiar with simple commands, you'll want to use more complex ones as described in "Communicating with Infocom's Interactive Fiction" on page 8.

C. Spoken commands: To say something out loud, use quotes: SAY "HELLO" or SAY "FORGIVE ME." Whenever you see two prompts (>>) on the screen, someone has asked you a direct question which you must answer to proceed in the story. (Usually you'll just need to type YES or NO.)

D. Special commands: Some commands, such as INVENTORY or SUPERBRIEF, give you specific information or affect your output. A list of these appears in the

"Special Commands" section on page 10.

3. After typing your sentence or command, you must press the RETURN (or ENTER) key before *Border Zone* will respond.

4. Your location in the story and the time are displayed at the top of your screen on a special line called the status line.

5. You can pick up and carry many of the items you'll find in the story. For example, if you type TAKE THE FLASK, you will be carrying it. Type INVENTORY to see a list of the items you are carrying.

6. When you want to stop, save your place for later, or start over, read the "Starting and Stopping" section on page 7.

7. If you have trouble, refer to the specific section of the manual for more detailed instructions.





FROBNIZ IZIM!



I AM FROBNIA



*Fortunate Tourists Guide  
and Phrasebook*



## PIMSNQ, FROBNIZ!

Beyond your wild dreams is Frobna, a republic to please happy tourists! From alpine mountains to billowing fields, there is in Frobna for all tastes. Although Frobna is mostly for crop, do not forget to visit our most modern cities, with cafe for your pleasure. Also to hand is the famous factories of Frzi.

In Frobna, you will go onboard train, the efficient transport for Frobna and tourist alike. You will find there much to please you, from delicious refreshments at convenient station to cheerful peoples you will meet.

Do not forget to greet your new friends. This little booklet helps you find precise words to say.

Enjoy our efforts! Each wonderful page shows the treat ahead for fortunate tourists like you... visitors of Frobna.



## PREP TIPNQ!

Here are many salutes you will use in our goodhumored country.



Our attractive peoples welcome you to Frobna.



The shrewd merchants of Khoblitz will sell you many interesting souvenirs.

Hello.  
Goodbye.  
Yes.  
Yes, sir.  
No.  
I am sorry.  
Please.  
Thank you.  
You're welcome.  
I can't tell you that.

Pimsna.  
Zletna.  
Yep.  
Yep, vaz.  
Nyep.  
Izi slep.  
(no translation)  
Prep tipna.  
(no translation)  
Snemetz pushna.

# OOPZI DAZI!

Walking on the street, you will use many friendly words.

Excuse me.	Oopzi dazi.
Introduce me.	Hartzí dazi.
Thank you.	Pripsa dazi.
You are pretty well.	Vinchim dorn.
It is my turn.	Pópka izim.
It is not my fault.	(no translation)
It's not allowed to...	Kap moles na...
take photographs here.	idimazim
walk here.	pletska pti
look at this.	skopá /fresna
introduce him/	snemsna /nol /
her.	dink.
do that.	oimí fresna.
You're under arrest.	Ouzna gotchwa.



The colorful street bazaar in Yinsli.



Whether you are a convention, Frobnia's several clean hotels are able to promise you plentiful beds with sufficient rations of pillows and blankets.

## INTZ KEM FROBNIZ!

The beloved People's Aquatic Recreational Facility near Wozniak is most scenic.



What good harvest it is!

Why not make a companion of Frobnia?

Hello.	Pimsna.
My name is ...	Riza yorp ...
Gurthark.	Gurtark.
Bob.	Bob.
I am from ...	Intz kem ...
Frobnia.	Frobníz.
Litzenburg.	Litzenka.
the KGB.	KGB.
Where are you from?	Kap kladni?
What is your ...	Sním pli
blood type?	corvizi?
age?	levizim?
What is your ...	sním pimsna?

# GORMNASH FLOOGLE NOMNETZ!




On trains is the best way to see the varied sights of Frobnia.

Where is track ...	Kap insken ... rallni?
number one?	entzen
number two?	trentzen
Where is the train to ...	Kap choozhoo ...
Ostnitz?	Ostnezka?
Litzenburg?	Litzenka?

All aboard!

Gormnash  
floogle nomnetz!  
(literally – it will  
leave without you)

 "Ready to be rolled!"  
Modern equipment like  
these now make it safe for  
you to travel through  
Frobnia.

I must search your  
baggage!

Mitschen gina  
bagni.

Open the bag!


Enzen bagni!

This/that is  
contraband!

Esna/fresno  
gorbnesli!

You're under arrest.

Ouzine gataro.

 "Ahh!" Why not be  
refreshed in our convenient  
train until your train  
arrives, too!



## ALP!

Not to worry about emergency in Frobnia. Our many assistants will soothe you.

Help!

Alp!

I've been ...

Hapenz ...

We've been ...

Hapninz ...

robbed.

stolni.

Used.

bangni.

killed.

hazbni.

stabbed.

vegni.

seduced.

olinki.

beaten.

arushni.

photographed.

fotomattni.


bludgeoned.

reznetzi.


garrotted.

meretzni.



 Do not be concerned  
if you are unfortunate, our  
courteous and efficient  
security personnel will help  
locate your misplaced  
passport.



 When touring Quz,  
no one makes the birth-  
place of pre-revolutionary  
ruler Oblicz Wnaka.

## SUFRIZ?



At the top of the world is medical care in Frobniia.

Hello.

Pimsna.

I have ...

Sufrizim ...

a headache.

anzin.

diarrhea.

fludgetz.

bad diarrhea.

fludgetz oboi.

bullet wounds.

bangnim enzom.

stab wounds.

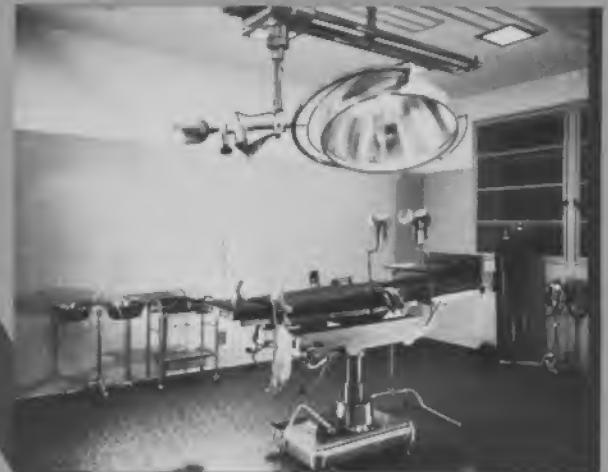
veznim enzom.

cyanide poisoning.

poiznim cianidom.

Who is to worry about poor health in Frobniia? Splendid facilities will end your complaints.

Our modern equipments for tourists are servicing every medical need.



## FINGIM FISH!



Before food is placed on your train, quality control inspectors make certain about everything.

Why not eat where food is good! It tastes best from Frobniia.

I would like ...

steak.

lamb.

chicken.

veal.

fish.

Fingim

boil.

lamb.

chicken.

veal.

fish.

Sorry, we don't have ...

steak.

lamb.

chicken.

veal.

fish.

Well, what do you have?

What is 'slopz'?

Really?

Is there nothing else?

Where is the bathroom?

I'm leaving.

You're under arrest!

Step, one fingri ...

boil.

lamb.

chicken.

veal.

fish.

Om, sni fingrom?

Sni slopz?

Nyep!

Fingrom oltz?

Kap inskem

washroom?

Rultz m.

Quzma gotcha.



"Guess what it is for lunch!" Always in Frobniia the traditional noontime ulasnesh entices travelers with its fragrance. Is good from Frobniia!



# ENTZ, TRENTZ, MRENTZ...

Even you can learn counting in Frobniä!

1	Entz
2	Trentz
3	Mrentz
4	Pentz
5	Gribni
6	Squibni
7	Plibni
8	Glibni
9	Kipitz
10	Nimitz
11	Enimitz
12	Trenimitz
13	Frenimitz
20	Trenimski
30	Mrenimski
50	Gribnimski
100	Nimnimski
1000	Nimnimnimski
1000000	Nimnimnimnimnimnimski



Does this look like the Swiss Alps to you? Surprise! It is the scenic resort at Suko.

Always be missing the millionaires of Frzi, a famous resort for tourists. Someday this plan will build a road airport for Frobniä.

1 o'clock  
2 o'clock  
2 fifteen  
  
2 thirty  
2 forty-five

entz ornim  
trentz ornim  
mrentz-pentz  
gribni ornim  
grip gribni ornim  
entz-pentz grip  
ornim



## KAP GAZNI?

Don't go at haphazard! Plan your journey from the interesting sights of Frobniä.

Where is...	Kap...
Where are...	Kop...
the mountains?	edelous?
the catacombs?	toumzim?
the swamp?	gazni?

the factory?  
the forest?  
the market?  
the border?  
the road?  
the museum?  
the tunnel?

anzingetz?  
chopom?  
ugetzís?  
hazhningetz?  
stritz?  
folkznip?  
blakiz?



"O Land of Many Transportations!" The Five Year Plan of 1966 will soon make everyone own a car - also a new plan hopes to connect the petro-gas thorough to please use the national railway at all times.



Always something exciting to be seen from your milkcoach window.

# TRAINS FROM FRZI TO VIENNA DAILY!

M Th ex H		lv Frzi	late morning	ar Vienna	evening	via Knuckla	🚂 ▶ ▶
F		lv Frzi	early morning	ar Vienna	late afternoon	via Ostnitz	🚂
W T	express	lv Frzi	mid-afternoon	ar Vienna	after midnight		✂ ✂ ✂
S Su ex H		lv Frzi	noon	ar Vienna	early morning	via Yinsli	▶ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂
M W	express	lv Frzi	late morning	ar Vienna	midnight		
H "vacations"		lv Frzi	mid-morning	ar Vienna	early evening		▶ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂
Th S	express	lv Vienna	late evening	ar Frzi	noon		✂
M W F ex H		lv Vienna	afternoon	ar Frzi	early morning	via Yinsli	🚂 ▶ ▶
						via Ostnitz	▶ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂
Su		lv Vienna	morning	ar Frzi	early evening	& Knuckla	✂ 🚂 ▶
T M	express	lv Vienna	noon	ar Frzi	late morning		✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂
F S Su "weekend"	✂	lv Vienna	early afternoon	ar Frzi	midnight	via Sizka	✂
ex H	express	lv Vienna	evening	ar Frzi	noon		🚂 ▶ ▶

Please see agent for current schedule.

**FROBNIA NATIONAL RAILWAY**  
*"You Will Go With Us"*

G-11-MAT



*"Vinchim Trotni Kap Daz"*



KRUP FRIM SPARKIM

FRONIZ  
BOURASHNI KALLNI



OSTNITZ  
SQUARE



RIZNIK'S

# RIZNIK'S ANTIQUES

*Rare Books and Curios*

**In Historic Ostnitz for 35 Years**

**Velkom!**

**Pimsna!**

**Welcome!**

**Willkommen!**

E D E L V A S

Choozhoostopim



Hazbniget

EDELVAS

C H O P O M

Rallni



Stritz

G A Z N I

Blakiz



— = Entzklobitz Zu.64739

Varst Hazbniget

Frobnitz Bourashni Memnitz

G-IE1-MAP



Smuggled into every *Border Zone* package: your *Border Zone* disk; "I am Frobnia" tourist guide and phrasebook; a business card from historic Ostnitz; a Frobnia National Railway matchbook; and a map of the border.

Where the Iron Curtain divides East and West, the frontier is a no man's land between freedom and captivity, a place where moments lost or precautions not taken exact a toll in men's lives. In *Border Zone*, you cross this barrier not once, but three times, as three different characters in a fast-paced story of international intrigue.

The pulse-pounding tension of espionage is heightened by the addition of real time, which ticks on regardless of your actions. As you race against the clock to complete your missions, you'll find yourself caught up in a spine-tingling adventure that's far more suspenseful than any spy thriller you've ever read.

The story begins on the train to Litztenburg, a peaceful country just outside the Iron Curtain. In the border town of Ostnitz, Constitution Day festivities include a speech by the American ambassador. But plans are afoot to destabilize this key neutral territory by assassinating the diplomat. Speeding towards the border through the Eastern bloc country of Frobnia are an easy-going American businessman, an ambitious young American spy, and a ruthless KGB agent. All three are soon to become entangled in the assassination plot, their lives

intertwining as each carries out his perilous assignment.

You'll see the story from three viewpoints, as you step into the shoes of a different major character in each of the three chapters of *Border Zone*. Set in separate locations on or near the border, the chapters are complete stories in themselves, each with its own riveting conclusion.

The on-line hints in *Border Zone* will help you out when you need it. But hints take you only so far. Even when you know exactly what to do, discretion and timing are crucial as you outwit the KGB, evade a snarling pack of search dogs, make a desperate assault on the border, and count down the moments to the assassination.

*Border Zone* was written by Marc Blank, a pioneer in interactive fiction and the author of such ground-breaking works as *Zork*\* and *Deadline*.\* In *Border Zone*, Marc takes the clever plotting and masterly prose of a top-notch thriller, brings it to life through interactive fiction, and intensifies the experience with the addition of real time.

So steel your nerves, and don't blow your cover, friend. You've a long way to go before you come in from the cold.

## ENTER THE WORLD OF THE MASTER STORYTELLERS.

Interactive fiction is a lot like your favorite book, using words to tell a story that progresses through time. The difference is that YOU are the main character. The story comes alive as you go places, meet people, outwit opponents, and tackle a wealth of puzzles and predicaments.

Journey to a place limited only by your imagination—the world of Infocom's interactive fiction.

## INFOCOM

125 CambridgePark Drive, Cambridge, MA 02140  
*Border Zone* is available for the Apple II series, IBM PC and 100% compatibles, Macintosh, and Commodore 64/128. Call us at 617-576-3190 for further information.

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